

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
1.	Autism Assessment Unit contact	The contact number for the Autism Assessment Unit is to be circulated to the West LPG members.	Piarais McCaffrey/ Jennifer Heverin
2.	GP Services	Alan to raise the issues of GP services with the West Belfast GP Federation MDT and bring their response back to the West LPG.	Alan Guthrie
3.	Childminding Registration	Details for registering as a childminder to be circulated within the West LPG.	Jane McKibbin/ Jennifer Heverin

<u>Action</u> <u>by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Deirdre Walsh opened the meeting by welcoming those present. Apologies have been recorded within the Minutes.</p>
	<p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting of 15th December 2021</p> <p>The previous minutes were displayed on screen. They were deemed to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.</p>
	<p>3. LPG Coordinator post update</p> <p>Paul O'Neill advised that there has been a successful candidate. They are currently undergoing background checks so Paul is not yet in a position to declare the name of the new LPG Coordinator until all checks and references have been taken up. Paul stated he is trying to speed up the process, however as it is undertaken in Armagh which is central point of recruitment this is difficult.</p>
	<p>4. Members Updates</p> <p>a) Piarais McCaffrey – Kids Together Piarais stated that recently Kids Together have engaged with some families who believe they are on the waiting list for an Autism assessment, but the reality is no assessment has been made. It was therefore suggested that once a referral is received the parent should be encouraged to contact the Autism Support Unit enquiring of their assessment date. This will ensure that a referral has indeed been made for an Autism assessment.</p> <p>Piarais will obtain the contact details for the Autism Assessment Unit and pass onto Jennifer Heverin for wider circulation.</p> <p>b) Deirdre Walsh – Whiterock Children's Centre Deirdre shared with the group some news she has discovered in relation to closures; both Ardmonagh and Saint Vincent DePaul are closing shortly. Deirdre stated that both closed without much publicity and wanted to know if this has happened in other areas.</p> <p>Paul O'Neill stated that there had been only a small number of actual closures. However a large daycare provider in North Belfast has reduced its numbers and there has been a significant increase in daycare's wanting to change their age groups as there is less demand for 0-2 year olds as more parents now work from home.</p>

Deirdre stated that with home working there is also less demand for afterschool provisions. However, Deirdre advised that she feels the 4-10 year old age group is one of the most vulnerable and have suffered the most with the impact of Covid, so these services are still vital.

c) Alan Guthrie – GP MDT BHSC

Deirdre put to Alan that there are numerous complaints from people unable to contact their GP's and that GP's are not enrolling new patients when many new comers are arriving with a host of health issues.

Alan said that he will address the issues raised by West LPG colleagues with the GP Federation and community colleagues and provide a response at the next meeting.

d) Jane McKibbin – NICMA

Jane advised that Northern Ireland Childminding Association and advised are really struggling to recruit childminders. They are currently unable to meet the needs as existing childminders are at full capacity.

NICMA are hoping to run a large scale recruitment campaign around March/April to attract new childminders.

Anyone interested in becoming a childminder needs to go through the Registration process which begins with the individual applying to their local Trust, their information is then passed to NICMA who will take them through the registration process. Once this is complete they will then undertake 3 elements of core training (all paid for by NICMA) and finally an early Years Social Worker will carry out a registration assessment of their home and fitness.

Jane will send details of this process to Jennifer Heverin for circulation.

e) Gillian Boyd – Cedar Foundation

Cedar are currently running their Youth Matters project for young people with a disability or brain injury. Their Act Up Programme is ongoing and is for age 12+. At present they are planning for their Summer Scheme,

Gillian stated if anyone has any children in mind that would benefit from this, please refer them now as by the summer all places are filled. The Summer Scheme takes place across the city in youth clubs, leisure centres and the like as well as day-trips and events. The activities are very much tailored to the group so once they get to know the members, activities and outings are based around what they would like to do.

Applications can be made through the Hubs. The criteria is that the child must be under 18 years old and have a brain injury or learning disability.

f) Claire Neill – Clan Mor Sure Start

Claire advised that Clan Mor services are almost back to normal. Applications for their 2 year old programme is now open. There is also a new Additional Needs Play and Stay Group and a new Ethnic Minorities Play and Stay within the Clonard Residents Association.

g) Penny Ambrose – Blackie River

Blackie River Mum & Baby Groups have resumed face to face sessions. The groups are very limited with small numbers.

There is a new Seesaw Home Visiting Programme for children of 1 year and over. It is aimed at parents who have had concerns raised around their child's development. The programme is aimed to offer support to the parent rather than the child. It started in September and is constantly evolving and reshaping utilising the feedback and experience gained.

h) Sinead McConnell – Ionad Uíbh Eachach

Sinead informed the meeting that The Shine Autism Support Group for school age children is ongoing, as well as their Play Support Programme.

She advised that within Ionad daycare setting they are seeing a big difference in nursery, P1 & P2 children. Many of the children are not as socially adept as their peers would have been and this is due to the impact of Covid.

i) Sharon Nelson – Whiterock Children's Centre

There has recently been a huge increase within the BAME community seeking services, particularly an increase for food parcels and gas/electric vouchers.

Sharon requested If anyone has any families struggling please refer them.

They are also hoping to resume the Bounce Back Programme for parents, but this time it is with an interpreter. Sharon requested that anyone aware of families who would benefit from this service to contact her.

5. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Greater Shankill
Timeframe:	Jan – March 22
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Total: Jan – 14 Feb March
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1370
Source of Service Requests:	School Nurse School Self Community Organisation Gateway GP
Key Gaps identified: Support for school transport for families living in hostel accommodation Specific specialist mentoring for young people with disabilities.	
Key Successes identified: Families supported with practical support through hub additional funding. Link made with Court Social Services to encourage referrals for families not engaged at tier 3 for access to support services via Hub.	
AOB for Sharing: None	

FSH Area:	Outer West Belfast
Timeframe:	Jan
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	January – 23
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1173
Source of Service Requests:	School Community GP Self Gateway Health Visitor GP MDT CAMHS
Key Gaps identified:	Play therapy
Key Successes identified:	Funding for ASD Parenting Programme received - to be facilitated by Kids Together Feb / March 2022.
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Greater Falls
Timeframe:	January 2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	26
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1622
Source of Service Requests:	Community, Gateway, Self - referral, School Nurse, Health Visitor, RISE.
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Specific supports for disability, limited Play therapy support. Access to practical items e.g. clothes for children/financial strain.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>Winter Warmers Programme – 21 families identified for cookery programme using slow cookers. Funding gained by FSH, 4 organisations partnered to support their families over 4 weeks.</p> <p>Availability of funding from BHSCT to support practical need of presenting families. ASDA vouchers purchased to cover food, clothes and other possible practical items</p>	

FSH Area:	Upperspringfield Whiterock FSH
Timeframe:	January 22
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Jan 32 referrals
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	From April to now 349 service requests to date
Source of Service Requests:	School Self (advised by GP/MHP to contact local hub) Health Visitor Mental health practitioner /SW Sure start Voluntary community /community organisations School nurse/EWO Gateway CAHMS

Key Gaps identified:

Lack of art and play therapist still an issue

Continued increase in families looking financial/practical support/gas/electric/fuel/food due to increases in utility cost and financial struggle” working poor” struggling with increased cost of living one parent shared they either must choose between “keeping their family warm or fed”.

Childcare for children 0 to 12 months shortage of places. To allow parents to attend confidence building programs which would be beneficial to support parents Mental Health.

Key Successes identified:

Families able to avail of British Red Cross Covid response fund through Hub which for some has been a lifeline- if one big item in the house breaks down this has caused serious hardship for some families.

Families availed of parenting programs; ethnic minority families have availed of - practical support. Been able to get items for families e.g., Buggies, warm clothing, fridge etc.

AOB for Sharing:

Hub has been given extra funds to support families in need.

6. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Deirdre thanking all those who attended.

2022 Dates for West Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	TIME	VENUES
2nd February	10am	MS Teams
TBA April	10am	TBA
TBA June	10am	TBA
TBA August	10am	TBA
TBA October	10am	TBA
TBA December	10am	TBA